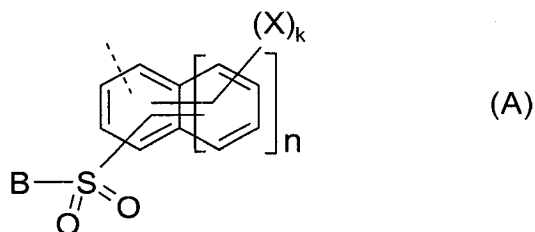


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): A process for ~~dyeing leather~~, comprising contacting said leather with a float that comprises at least one dye F which has at least one group represented by formula A:



where

----- denotes the bond to the dye molecule;

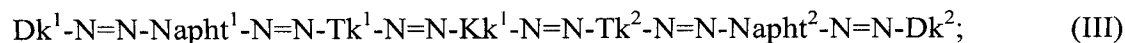
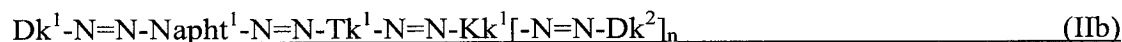
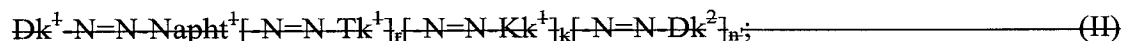
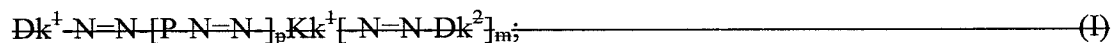
X is an electron-attracting radical, wherein at least one radical X is present and is an SO₃H group;

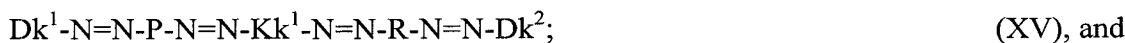
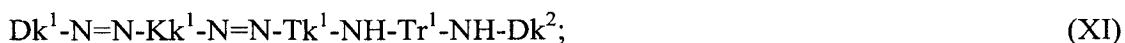
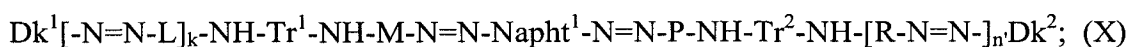
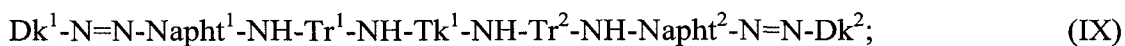
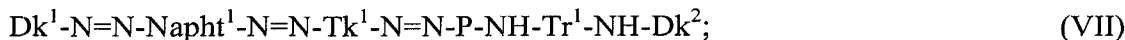
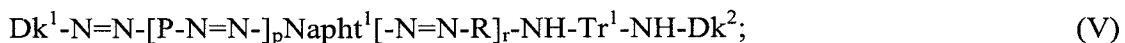
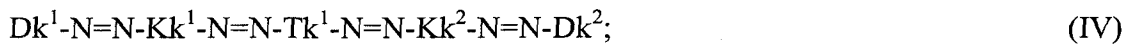
k is 1, 2 or 3;

n is 0 or 1; and

B is a CH=CH₂ group or a CH₂-CH₂-Q group, where Q is an alkaline-detachable group, wherein during said contacting said float has a pH of from 8.5 to 11, or during said contacting said float initially has a pH of from 3.5 to 7.4 which is then set to a value of from 8.5 to 11 to fix the dye to said leather, and wherein

said at least one dye is selected from the group consisting of





a metal complex thereof,

where

k, n', p and r are independently 0 or 1, and for formula II, $k+n'+r$ is 1, 2 or 3;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

each of Dk^1 and Dk^2 independently represents an aromatic amine radical or represents a

group of formula A where, in each of the formulae I—XII, I, IIb, III-XI and XIII - XV,

at least one of Dk^1 and Dk^2 represents a radical of formula A;

each of Kk^1 and Kk^2 independently represents a monovalent, a divalent or a trivalent

aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of benzene; naphthalene;

pyrazole; quinoline; diphenylamine; diphenylmethane; pyrimidine; pyridine; and

diphenyl ether, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the

group consisting

SO₃H, COOH, CN, CONH₂, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical represented by formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷,

where each of R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen; C₁-C₄-alkyl; formyl; C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkyloxycarbonyl; NH₂-CO-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and halogen; or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-phenyl, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally have 1 or 2 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Kk³ is a monovalent radical selected from the group consisting of benzene, pyrimidine, pyridine, and naphthalene, which optionally has

1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups as substituents,
and optionally 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from the group consisting of SO₃H, COOH, CN, CONH₂, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical of the formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷,

where R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen; C₁-C₄-alkyl; formyl; C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl; NH₂-CO-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and halogen; or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-phenyl, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl

group which can optionally comprise 1 or 2 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

each of Tk¹ and Tk² independently represents a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of benzene, diphenylamine, biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, stilbene and phenylaminocarbonylbenzene, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of SO₃H, COOH, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, and C₁-C₄-alkyl;

each of L, M, P and R independently represents a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of benzene and naphthalene, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of SO₃H, COOH, CN, CONH₂, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical of the formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷,

where R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen; C₁-C₄-alkyl; formyl; C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl; NH₂-CO-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on

the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and halogen; or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally have 1 or 2 of radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Napht¹, Napht² independently represent a naphthalene radical having 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and may optionally have 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, NH₂, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino, 4-methylphenylsulfonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenylaminosulfonyl, 4-methylphenylaminosulfonyl, and a NHC(O)R^x radical, where R^x hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, maleyl or phenyl;

Pyr represents pyrazole-1,4-diyl which attaches through the nitrogen atom to the A group and optionally has 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxy; and

Tr¹, Tr² independently represent a 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diyl radical which optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a methyl group and a methoxy group.

2 (Cancelled).

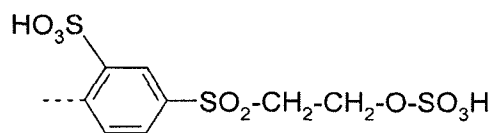
3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein B in the formula A is CH=CH₂, a CH₂-CH₂-O-SO₃H group or a CH₂-CH₂-O-C(O)CH₃ group.

4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the group represented by formula A is attached to the dye molecule via an -NH- or -N=N- group.

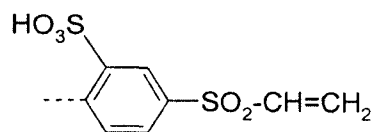
5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 4, wherein the at least one dye F is selected from the group consisting of a phthalocyanine dye, an anthraquinone dye, an azo dye, a formazan dye, a dioxazine dye, an actidine dye, a xanthene dye, a polymethine dye, a stilbene dye, a sulfur dye and a triarylmethane dye.

6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein n is 0.

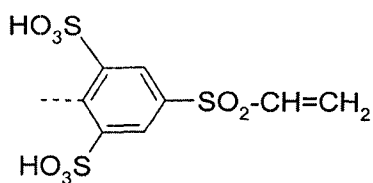
7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 6, wherein the at least one group represented by formula A is selected from the group consisting of:



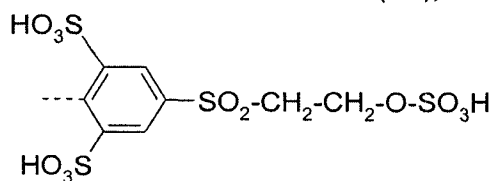
(A1),



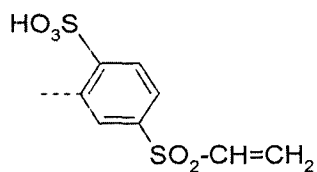
(A2),



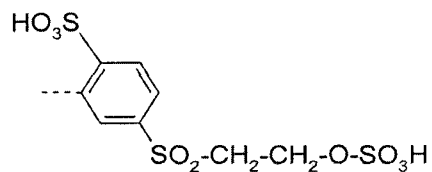
(A3),



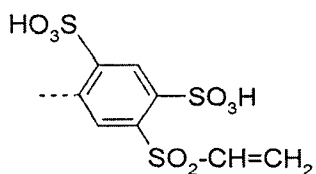
(A4),



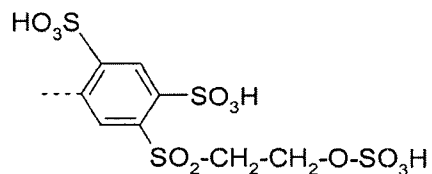
(A5),



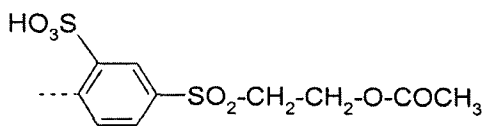
(A6),



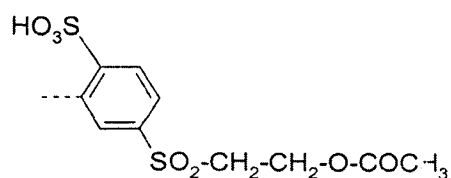
(A7),



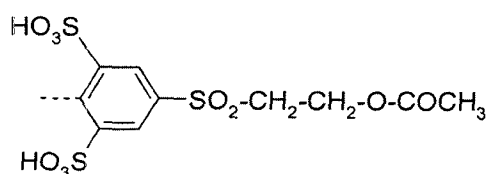
(A8),



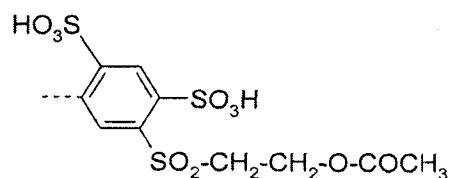
(A9),



(A10),



(A11), and



(A12).

8 (Cancelled).

9 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, which further comprises initially treating the leather with an aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH in the range from 3 to 6.5 prior to said contacting.

10 (Cancelled).

11 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~dyeing~~ contacting occurs before retanning.

12 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said contacting occurs at temperatures in the range from 10 to 60°C.

13-18 (Cancelled).

19 (Previously Presented): A dyed leather obtainable by a dyeing process according to claim 1.

20 (Previously Presented): The dyed leather according to Claim 19 for handwear, footwear, automobiles, apparel or furniture.

21-23 (Cancelled).

24 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 8.5 to 10.5.

25 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 8.5 to 10.

26 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 9.5 to 11.

27 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 26, wherein said contacting is carried out ~~occurring~~ for a time of from 0.5 to 2 hours.

28 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein when said contacting is carried out for at most four hours, said at least one dye exhibits a fixation to said leather of at least 85%, as determined by UV/VIS spectroscopy and HPLC.

29 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein when said contacting is carried out for four hours, said at least one dye exhibits a fixation to said leather of at least 90%, as determined by UV/VIS spectroscopy and HPLC.

30 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of chlorine; bromine; iodine; $-O-SO_3H$; $-S-SO_3H$; tri- C_1-C_4 -alkylammonium; benzyldi- C_1-C_4 -alkylammonium; N-attached pyridinium; $R^3S(O)_2-$; $R^4S(O)_2-O-$; and $R^5C(O)-O-$, where

each of R^3 and R^4 is independently an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a phenyl group, or a substituted phenyl group, and

R^5 is a hydrogen, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a phenyl group, or a substituted phenyl group.

31 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein n in the group represented by formula A is 1.

32 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 31, wherein B in the formula A is $CH=CH_2$, a $CH_2-CH_2-O-SO_3H$ group or a $CH_2-CH_2-O-C(O)CH_3$ group.

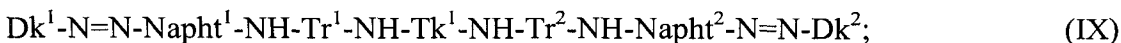
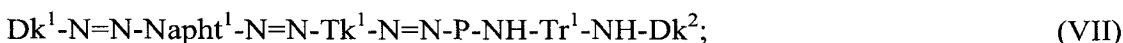
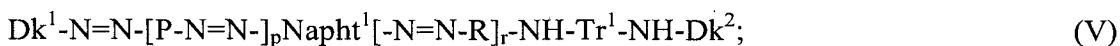
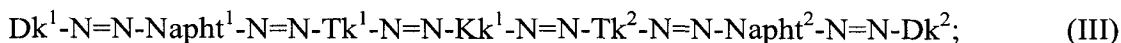
33 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein for the Dk^1 and Dk^2 moiety that is not a group represented by formula A, such moiety is selected from the group consisting of benzene-, naphthalene- and quinoline-derived radicals and 1-phenylpyrazol-4-yl which are unsubstituted or comprise 1, 2 or 3, substituents selected from the group consisting of SO_3H , $COOH$, OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , CN , $CONH_2$, halogen, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -hydroxyalkyl, carboxy- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -

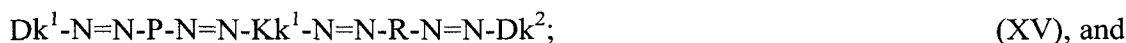
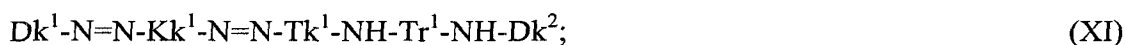
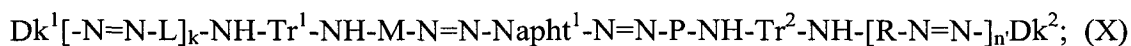
dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where

R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, NH₂-CO, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl radicals,

5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which phenyl or naphthyl group are unsubstituted or which comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy.

34 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said at least one dye is selected from the group consisting of





a metal complex thereof,

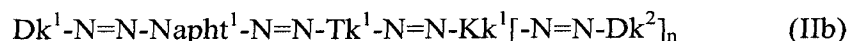
where k, n', p and r are independently 0 or 1, and m is 0, 1 or 2.

35 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, further comprising adding an alkali metal carbonate, an alkali metal bicarbonate, and an alkali metal hydroxide to said float during said contacting to control the pH of the float during said contacting.

36 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, further comprising reacting the at least one group represented by formula A of dye F with amino groups present on a surface of said leather to covalently bond said dye F to said leather.

37 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said contacting is carried out for a period of from 0.5 to 4 hours and a temperature of from 10 to 60°C.

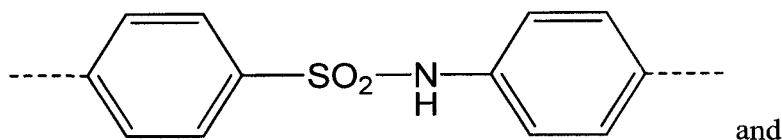
38 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said at least one dye is at least one dye represented by formula (IIb)



wherein

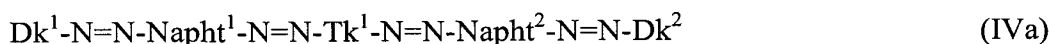
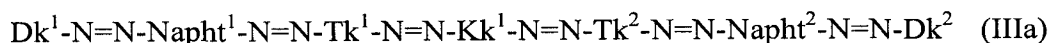
n is 0 or 1,

Tk¹ represents



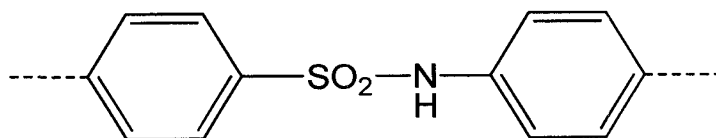
----- represent the bonds to the azo groups.

39 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said at least one dye is at least one dye represented by one of formulae (IIIa) and (IVa)



wherein n and k represent 0 or 1, and n + k is = 1 or 2.

40 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39, wherein at least one of Tk^1 and Tk^2 in formulae (IIIa) and (IVa) represents



wherein ----- represent the bonds to the azo groups.

41 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float consists of at least one dye F having the at least one group represented by formula A.

42 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein each X in the formula A is, individually, selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, CN, NO₂, -C(O)-R¹ and S(O)₂R², where each of R¹ and R² is, independently, OH, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, an alkoxy group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group.